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116 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60603 • (312) 726-3860

To Promote General Interest in and Understanding of the Foreign Policy of the United States

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Dear Bill:

I was surprised and pleased to receive an announcement from the Los Angeles World Affairs Council indicating that you were to speak in Los Angeles on Friday, May 3rd. This answers a question that has been in my mind since your appointment last year: whether you are able to accept speaking engagements before private groups, either on or off-the-record. It also reminds me that I am long overdue in writing you a letter.

First of all, I want to congratulate you on your appointment as the Director of Central Intelligence. In a year packed with depressing events, it is encouraging to know that intelligence-and integrity are still being rewarded. I thought of you and your colleagues many times since leaving the government in January of 1969. From this viewpoint you and Dick Helms came out of this whole sorry episode with your integrity intact.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to come out and give an address before the Chicago Committee of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations at a time of your choosing. The Chicago Committee is an elite group which includes the leadership of this city. Its meetings are private and off-the-record and its format corresponds closely to that of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

The Chicago Council on Foreign Relations is a large and diverse organization and we have both off-the-record and on-the-record platforms. If you want to reach the leadership of this community, the Chicago Committee offers an excellent opportunity to do so. A list of the membership (as of a year ago) is attached. The usual format is a 30-minute talk, followed by a half hour discussion. The best time is a luncheon from 12:00 to 2:00 PM at the Chicago Club.

We still have several dates open in June and a number in the Autumn. Let us know what would be convenient for you and we will work out a suitable date. If you would like to give a briefing to the editorial board of one of the newspapers, we can easily arrange that. If you would like some visibility, we regularly have press conferences here for those officials who prefer to get something on the record.

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I am sending you some information on the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. If you have any questions, just give me a call.

If you find yourself passing tirrough Chicago, give me a call or come by. We would always be delighted to see you. I hope we will have an opportunity to have you here at the Council some time during the coming year.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Rielly

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This is about the fourth reason you might have for a trip to Chicago -- Chicago Sun Times, Ebony magazine,

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Committee)
Reilly, John E.
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